

NSC BRIEFING

22 November 1957

MEETING OF COMMUNIST LEADERS IN MOSCOW

- I. Meeting held 14-16 November, attended by all major Communist parties including Yugoslavs, but communique issued only 22 November. Principle theme of Communique was Communist confidence that "decisive shift" in world balance of forces has taken place "in favor of Socialism."
 - A. West must accommodate to Bloc positions on international issues.
 - B. "Peace camp" now capable asserting "ever-increasing influence on international situation"--a reference to Soviet weapons achievements.
 - C. Nations of Western alliance--particularly US--attacked in unusually vituperative terms ("bellicose imperialist maniacs.")
- II. Communist Party Relations: Communique reaffirms Khrushchev's predominant position in Communist world by repeating his views from 7 November anniversary speech.
 - A. Statement on relations among Bloc countries carefully balanced between assertions of Soviet pre-eminence and the need to pay attention to "historical peculiarities" various countries--the "many paths to Socialism" theme.
 - B. There was also a gesture to Poland's Gomulka, in a charge of the standard language on agricultural collectivization. Gomulka's abandonment of collectivization was glossed over by new formula "gradual socialist reconstruction of agriculture."

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- C. Yugoslav role not clear. Ignored in communique, although delegation headed by Kardelj present in Moscow. Much of content obviously unacceptable to Yugoslavs.

III. What communique did not say perhaps most interesting.

- A. Did not set up new international communist organization as previously called for by "hard-line" Satellite communists.
 - 1. Instead, specified bilateral and multilateral party meetings in future.
- B. Failure to set up new Cominform, delay in issuing statement, Yugoslav omission--all hidden behind hard, bluntery language--suggest difficulties encountered in working out program.

IV. Offrelated interest: Communist chiefs have departed Moscow, but Chicom boss Mao left behind in Moscow his defense minister, chief of staff, and commanders of different Chicom military arms.

- A. Negotiations between these officials and Soviet opposites may cover plans to supply Chinese with up-to-date weapons systems.